

Appl. No. : 09/865,037
Filed : October 1, 2001

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the claims are directed to the following "patentability distinct species of the claimed invention": Figures 4a, 5, 6, and 7. While Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's identification of the species, in order to move this application along, the Applicants elect without traverse to proceed with the Figure 7 species as defined in the Office Action. The Applicants agree with the Examiner that Claims 16 and 26 are generic. Moreover, the Applicants submit that Claims 1, 2, 7, 15, 17-19, and 27-38 are also generic to the Examiner-designated Figure 7 species. In addition, the Applicants submit that Claims 3-6 read at least on the Examiner-designated Figure 7 species. However, the Applicants note that this election should not be construed as an indication that Claims 3-6 should in any way be limited to cover only those embodiments disclosed with reference to Figure 7.

Claims 20-25 are withdrawn as non-elected and will be examined later if and when a generic claim is found to be allowable. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue any non-elected claims in one or more divisional or continuation applications. Accordingly, prompt examination on the merits of the elected claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/18/05

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